

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
HEARING NO. 14
DATE 3-21-07
BILL NO. HB 460

**HANDOUT FOR 3/21/07 SENATE NATURAL
RESOURCE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ON HB 460**

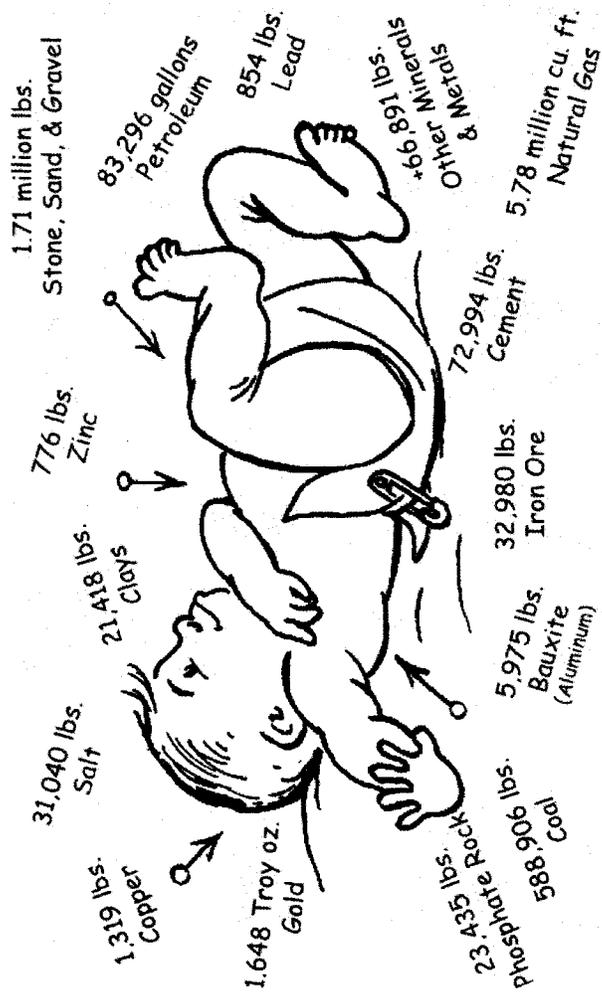
3/21/07

By

FESS FOSTER, Ph.D., CPG
Geological & Environmental Consulting
21 Paul Gulch Road
Whitehall, Montana 59759
Work/Home: (406) 287-3261 Cell: (406) 570-1069

The American lifestyle

Every American Born Will Need . . .



3.7 million pounds of minerals, metals, and fuels in their lifetime

© 2006, Mineral Information Institute

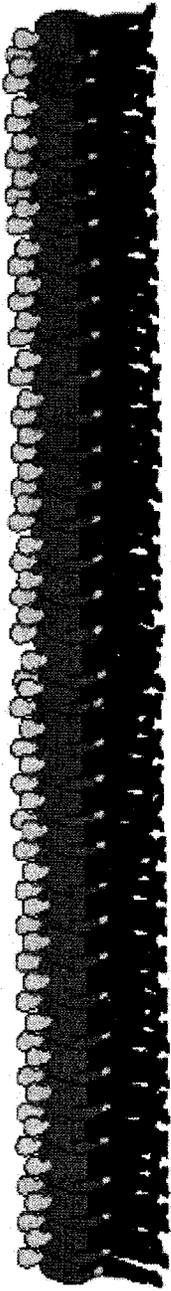
Every year — 47,502 pounds of new minerals must be provided for every person in the United States to make the things we use, every day

	12,428 lbs. Stone used to make roads, buildings; bridges; landscaping; numerous chemical and construction uses		17 lbs. Copper used in buildings; electrical & electronic parts; plumbing; transportation
	9,632 lbs. Sand & Gravel used to make concrete; asphalt; roads; blocks & bricks		11 lbs. Lead 75% used for transportation — batteries; electrical; communications; TV screens
	940 lbs. Cement used to make roads; sidewalks; bridges; buildings; schools; houses		10 lbs. Zinc used to make metals rust resistant; various metals & alloys; paint; rubber; skin creams; health care; and nutrition
	425 lbs. Iron Ore used to make steel — buildings; cars; trucks, planes, & trains; other construction; containers		49 lbs. Soda Ash used to make all kinds of glass, in powdered detergents, medicines, as a food additive, photography, water treatment.
	400 lbs. Salt used in various chemicals; highway deicing; food & agriculture		6 lbs. Manganese used to make almost all steels for construction; machinery; transportation
	302 lbs. Phosphate Rock used to make fertilizers to grow food; animal feed supplements		639 lbs. Other Nonmetals numerous uses glass; chemicals; soaps; paper; computers; cell phones; etc.
	276 lbs. Clays used to make floor & wall tile; dinnerware; kitty litter; bricks & cement; paper		29 lbs. Other Metals numerous uses same as nonmetals, but also electronics; TV & video equipment; recreation equipment; etc.
	77 lbs. Aluminum (Bauxite) used to make buildings; beverage containers; autos; airplanes		

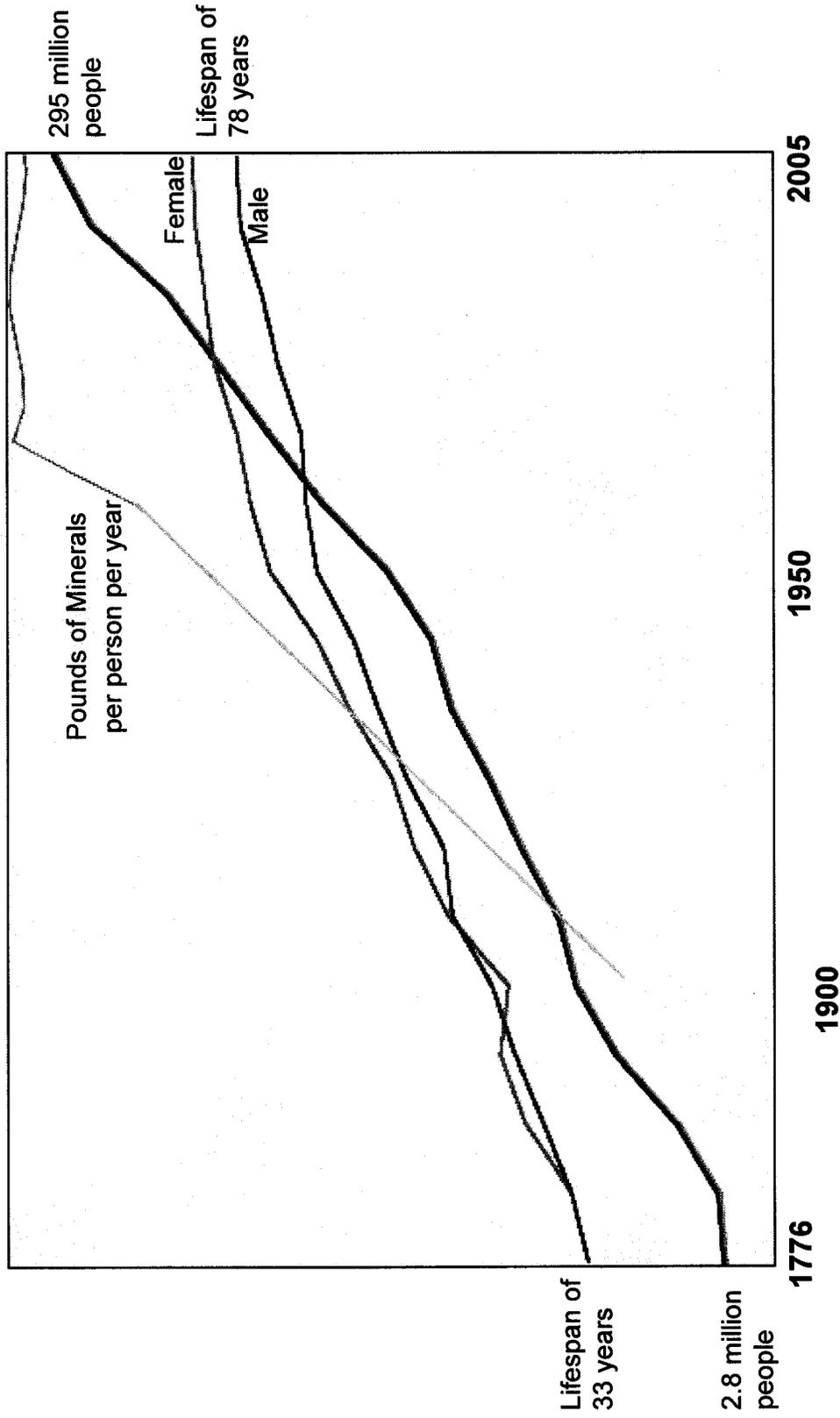
Plus These Energy Fuels

- 1,073 gallons of **Petroleum** • 7,589 lbs. of **Coal** • 74,468 cu. ft. of **Natural Gas** • 1/3 lb. of **Uranium**

To generate the energy each person uses in one year — equivalent to 300 people working around the clock for each of us.



The American Lifestyle Depends on Minerals





SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. _____

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

*600 Shields Avenue
Butte, Montana 59701
(406) 496-3200
FAX (406) 723-9542*

March 21, 2007

Chairman Lind & Committee Members
Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

RE: SB 460 (Sponsor Jim Keane)

Mr. Chairman & Committee Members:

My name is Tad Dale and I am Vice President of Human Resources for Montana Resources, LLP in Butte, Montana. Montana Resources (MR) operates the lowest ore grade open pit copper and molybdenum mine in the world. Our skilled work force, existing infrastructure, and efficient operating methods allow us to economically compete in the world market. Thank you for allowing me to outline Montana Resources' position on House Bill 460.

Revisions to the Metal Mine Reclamation Laws of Montana are always highly scrutinized by the Mining Industry because a one-word change can have a devastating effect on the future viability of any mining operation. That is why changes to this body of law have to be done in concert with the agencies that regulate the mining industry and members of the public. HB 460 is just that - a good faith compromise to solve the issue that water leaving a mine property meets the water quality standards at the point of discharge. This allows the mine to operate within defined boundaries and also protects the public from released water that does not meet water quality standards.

The Department of Environmental Quality has always had authority to review a reclamation plan and bond of any mining operation to make sure it meets the laws of the State of Montana. This bill goes one step further and allows for modifications to the reclamation plan and bond if there is a "reasonable probability" that potential water discharges will not meet water quality standards.

The mining industry has made great improvements in the past several years to operate in a professional manner so that the public is not the recipient of reclamation problems after mining ceases. This is evident in the increase in bond amounts for all mines operating in the state and the changes that have been made to operating permits to protect the public. The contribution to the state economy cannot be overstated. The mining industry has maintained a healthy relationship with the Department of Environmental Quality to meet the laws of Montana and still compete in the world marketplace.

I urge you to support HB 460 as a positive change to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of Montana Resources on this House Bill.

Sincerely,

Tad Dale, P.E.
V.P. Human Resources

Copies: Rolin Erickson, President of Montana Resources
Debbie Shea, Executive Director of the Montana Mining Association
Mike Halligan, Director of Government Relations – Washington Corporations